



## **State Revolving Fund Loan Programs**

### **Drinking Water, Wastewater, Nonpoint Source**

#### **PRELIMINARY DECISION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION**

TO ALL INTERESTED CITIZENS, ORGANIZATIONS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

**HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT**  
**ROBERTSDALE FORCE MAIN & SIPHON ENGINEERING STUDY**  
**PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING REPORT ADDENDUM #17**  
**SRF # WW05 16 45 02**

**Date: September 15, 2011**

Pursuant to IC 4-4-11, the State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Program has determined that the project described here and in the Hammond Sanitary District's Robertsdale Force Main Engineering Study, Addendum #17 to its Preliminary Engineering Report dated August 9, 2011, will have no substantial negative environmental impact. Therefore, the SRF is issuing a preliminary decision of Categorical Exclusion from the requirements of substantive environmental review.

*How were environmental issues considered?*

The National Environmental Policy Act requires agencies disbursing Federal funds to include environmental factors in the decision making process. A summary of the project is attached for your review. The SRF's preliminary review has found that the proposed project does not require the preparation of either an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

*Why is additional environmental review not required?*

Our environmental review has concluded that significant environmental impacts will not result from the proposed action.

*How do I submit comments?*

Comments can be submitted to:

Max Henschen, Senior Environmental Manager  
SRF Programs  
317-232-8623; mhensche at ifa.in.gov

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## CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

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### I. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Name and Address: Hammond Sanitary District  
Robertsdale Force Main & Siphon Engineering  
Study  
Preliminary Engineering Report Addendum #17  
5143 Columbia Avenue  
Hammond, IN. 46327-1794

SRF Project Number: WW05 16 45 02

Authorized Representative: Dr. Michael T. Unger, District Manager

### II. PROJECT LOCATION

There are no construction-related activities associated with this project. The project consists of an engineering study to replace the southern portion of the 36-inch force main from the Robertsdale pump station. The force main extends approximately 3 miles south from the Robertsdale pump station to a 54-inch gravity sewer at the Indiana Harbor Ship Canal. The focus of the proposed engineering study is the southern 4000 ft of the force main from approximately Cline Avenue to the Canal; a siphon in the Canal will also be evaluated. See Figure 1.

### III. PROJECT NEED AND PURPOSE

The District has recently experienced multiple pipe failures of the 36-inch diameter ductile iron Robertsdale force main in various locations. The 4000 foot segment of force main on the BP property must be replaced as soon as possible to maintain the function of the Robertsdale Pump Station, which serves North Hammond and Whiting.

The purpose of the engineering study is to evaluate replacement pipe materials and possible routes of the replacement force main from the Indiana Harbor Ship Canal north approximately 4000 feet. The project will also evaluate the siphon in the Canal to determine modifications required for an additional siphon and new force main connection.

There are no feasible alternatives to the proposed action. The “no-action” alternative was rejected, since the need to avert failure of the force main would not be addressed, nor would the need to plan for the siphon replacement.

#### **IV. ESTIMATED PROJECT COST, AFFORDABILITY AND FUNDING**

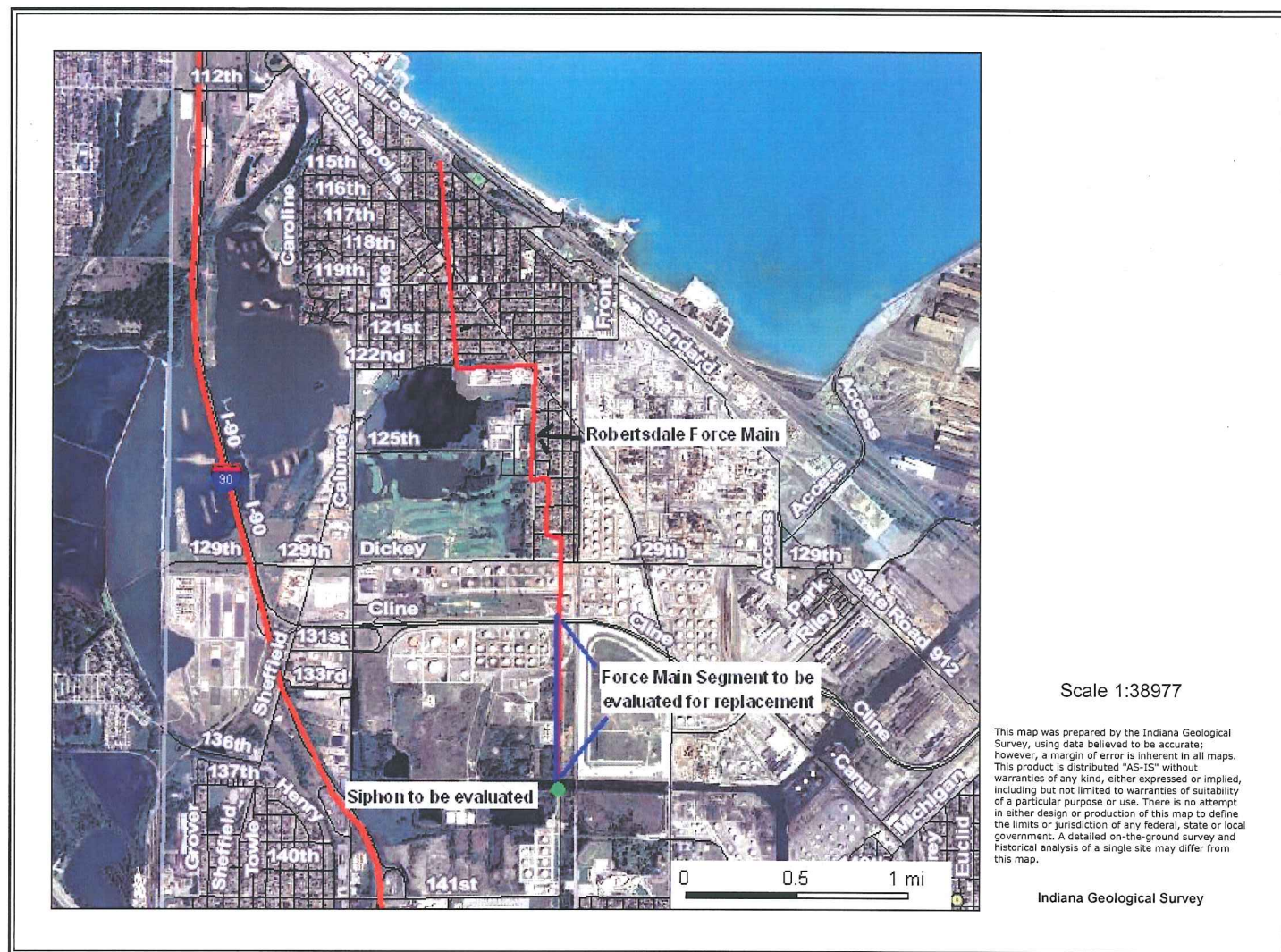
The estimated cost of the engineering study is \$50,320. The Hammond Sanitary District will use funds from its existing SRF Loan # WW05 16 45 02 to fund this project. Monthly user rates will not have to be adjusted. As of this date, there remains an unspent balance of \$4,422,978 in SRF Project #WW05 16 45 02.

#### **V. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES**

Since the project will consist only of an engineering study, there will be no environmental impacts. Consistent with the implementing regulations of the National Historic Preservation Act, the SRF has determined that the proposed undertaking is not a type of activity that has the potential to cause effects to historic properties.

#### **VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The proposed project was discussed at a publicly noticed Board of Sanitary Commissioners meeting on August 9, 2011 at the Hammond Sanitary District Office. No written comments were received.



**FIGURE 1: Robertsdale Force Main/Siphon Evaluation Area**